麟慶:鴻雪因緣

Tracks in the Snow: excerpts
Episodes from an Autobiographical Memoir
By the Manchu Bannerman Linqing (1791–1846)
Translated by Yang Tsung-han and John Minford

Introductory Note

An earlier selection of the first ten episodes of this memoir, together with one of the prefaces, edited from Professor Yang's manuscript translation, was published in the Australian journal East Asian History (number 6, December 1993, pp. 105–142), with a lengthy introduction, and a tribute to the translator by his friend Professor Liu Ts'un-yan. The ten episodes selected for publication here are linked by the theme of the garden. Linqing himself owned a garden in Peking designed by Li Yu 李漁, the Half-acre Garden, and in the course of his life visited many of China's famous gardens.

Footnotes are those of Professor Yang's, unless they are translated from the original annotations by Linqing, in which case they are marked (LQ). If they are my additions, they are marked (JM). The informal nature of Professor Yang's comments has been preserved wherever possible.

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